

REMARKS

In the Office Action under reply, restriction was required as follows:

Group I claims 1-17; and

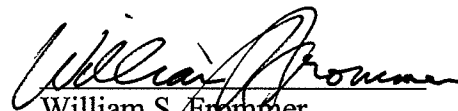
Group II claims 18-24.

Without commenting on the accuracy of the Examiner's characterization of the subject matter of the respective groups of claims, Applicants elect, **without traverse**, Group I claims 1-17 for further prosecution in the present application. To simplify the prosecution of this application, non-elected claims 18-24 are cancelled.

Applicants reserve their right to file a divisional application to re-present the nonelected claims.

An early examination on the merits of the elected claims is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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